



Review of Emerging Additive Manufacturing Technologies in 3D Printing of Cementitious Materials in the Construction Industry

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Additive manufacturing is a fabrication technology that is rapidly revolutionizing the manufacturing and construction sectors. In this paper, a review of various prototyping technologies for printing cementitious materials and selected 3D printing techniques are presented in detail. Benchmark examples are provided to compare three well-known printing techniques; inkjet printing (binder jetting), selected laser sintering (SLS), and extrusion printing (extrusion based process). A comprehensive search in the literature was conducted to identify various mix designs that could be employed when printing cementitious materials. Aspects of concrete mix design are described, and some new experiments are conducted to analyse the printability of new mixes by the authors. Future research in the area of the rheology of cementitious materials and its relationship with the structural performance of finished concretes are highlighted.

Keywords: extrusion printing, inkjet 3D printing, construction, cement mortar, cementitious mix design

INTRODUCTION

Construction companies face numerous and substantial challenges regarding the costs of production. For instance, cast *in-situ* concrete processes produce many waste materials that are discarded afterwards, particularly if formwork is not used again. In contrast, recyclable scaffold reduces waste. However, such molds are relatively expensive to produce, and the long series of scaffolding is needed to make these molds cost-effective (De Witte, 2015). The life cycle of scaffolds is another issue in terms of the environmental footprint of scaffolds, particularly considering greenhouse gas emissions. This, in turn, causes much repetition thus enabling better fabrication, precise production of elements, and prints of any geometries, which are hard to make for conventional application such as façade elements (Buswell et al., 2007; Lim et al., 2012).

It has been shown that rapid prototype technologies (e.g., 3D printing) could completely revolutionize a range of production methods (Lipson and Kurman, 2013). The main advantage of rapid prototype technologies is directly constructing parts in one step from the CAD data (Vaezi and Chua, 2011). For instance, the use of 3D printing could reduce 35–60% of the total cost of concrete construction simply by removing the need for formwork (Lloret et al., 2015).

There are issues with using molds for construction such as their recyclability and scaffold size limitations for a range of structural components. Many freeform components are cast *in-situ*, where

their quality cannot be controlled (Elhag et al., 2008). For that reason, high-performance components (e.g., beam and columns) are made in controlled environments. Various 3D techniques are being used in Additive Manufacturing (AM) processes, such as 3D scanning in the digital fabrication process and for file generation (Ma et al., 2017).

Over-ordering of concrete (Tam et al., 2006) and tied up formwork (Cole, 1998) are the main contributors to extra CO₂ emissions of *in-situ* concrete casting and a huge waste of materials. Next, hardening of concrete produces CO₂. Thus, the development of new and innovative construction methods is motivated by the pursuit of economic, environmentally-friendly, and architectural benefits. Bos et al. (2016) believed that using 3DP technology is a decent introductory step toward replacing cement in the construction industry with less energy-intensive materials such as fly ash and geopolymer concrete.

There are some issues and limitations associated with 3D printing such as the low stiffness and strength of the printed building materials as well as the printing size (Edwards et al. (2013). Bos et al. (2016) mentioned that the WinSun company could print a large building component ($\sim 36.6 \times 12.2 \times 6.1$ m) with their 3D printer and an automated robotic arm. Also, Weger et al. (2016) reported printing structural components with cross-sections up to 6×6 m using a D-shape printer by pouring liquid on the powder-based materials. Another limitation is that the intended printed size does not match with the specifications of all kinds of 3D printers, as each printer has its own specifications for fabricating structural elements. There are also concerns regarding powder-based 3D printing methods, namely, the need for support to hold the weight of the printed object until the material gains enough strength. Additionally, mix design and using coarse aggregates is another challenge for 3D printing of concrete. For instance, the WinSun company used only fine cementitious materials without coarse aggregate in their 3D printing application.

This study presents an overview of the available and trending techniques for printing or plotting cementitious materials and their adaptations to different mix ingredients and the mixing process.

OVERVIEW OF RAPID PROTOTYPE TECHNOLOGIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

According to Tay et al. (2016), rapid prototyping in the building and construction field was introduced as an innovative approach to constructing structures (Pegna, 1997). Since then, rapid prototyping and later digital fabrication have gained popularity in the construction industry as well as many others such as automotive, aerospace, and biomedical (see Buswell et al., 2007; Berman, 2012). Feng et al. (2015a) classified rapid prototyping (RP) technologies into three main categories: additive, additive/subtractive and subtractive as shown in **Figure 1**.

In subtractive manufacturing, a 3D object is created by removing the material from a block using material-cutting

machines. In additive manufacturing which is the focus of this paper, a feed material in the form of powder, liquid, filament, glue, or binder is added to a substrate, layer by layer, to construct a 3D object. The amount of leftover materials from this process is often considerably larger than the outcome of the additive manufacturing process when creating the same 3D object (Ambrosi and Pumera, 2016).

Li et al. (2016) reviewed additive manufacturing technologies and 3D printing with various raw materials in the market. They found that photopolymers had the largest share of the 3D printing market (56% by weight), followed by thermoplastics (42%), metals (only 1%). The market share of ceramics, concrete materials was about 1% in total.

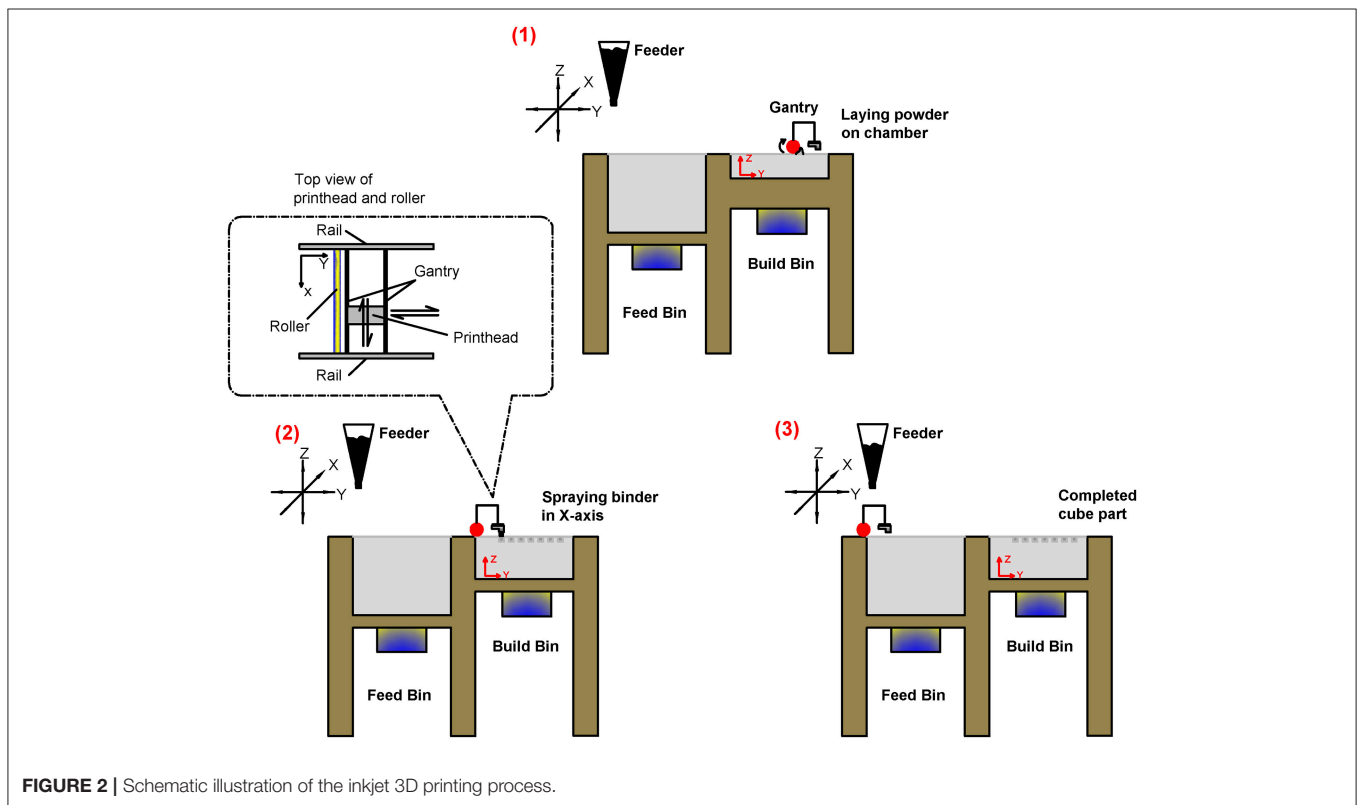
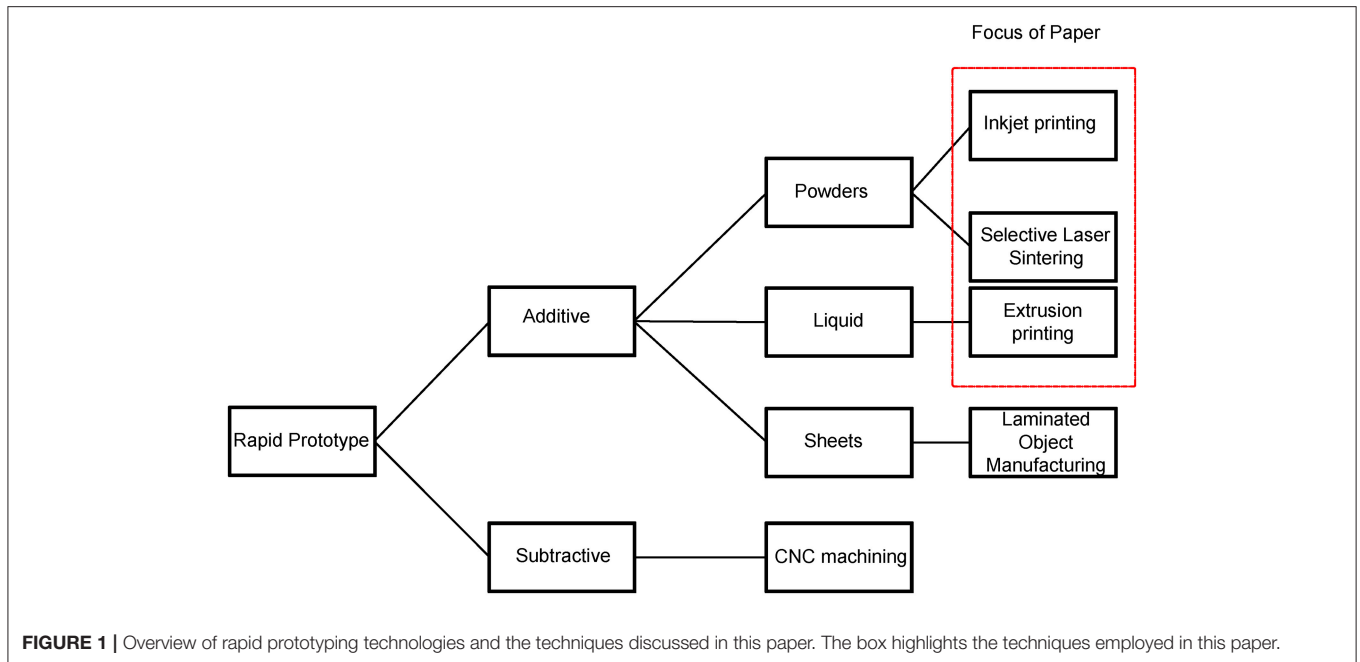
In this paper, we discuss the key additive manufacturing techniques that have the potential to be used in the construction industry.

Inkjet Printing (Binder Jetting)

The inkjet printing, also known as binder jetting, is one of the common printing methods used to 3D print parts in various industries and it has great potentials for constructing large structures from cementitious materials. In this method, a thin layer of the printing material, often in powder form but sometimes in chip form, is spread (e.g., with a roller) over a solid platform or tray. Then, a liquid binder is deposited over the powder bed as shown in **Figure 2**. The binder glues the powder together to form a solid part. This process is repeated several times and layers are printed on top of each other to form a 3D object. It should be noted that some printing materials may require curing (Wu et al., 2016) or kiln firing (Withell et al., 2011) in the oven as an additional post-processing step. This would make inkjet printing an energy-intensive technique for creating large structures. One of the main roles of the powder is to support the part while the binder is being deposited over the top layer that was printed in the previous step (Tay et al., 2017). Although complex geometries may be printed with this technique, the finished part often contains voids which deteriorate the part's quality. Inkjet printing is more suitable for printing parts and structures in which high printing speed is preferred over the printing accuracy according to Wu et al. (2016). Researchers have reported employing various combinations of powder and binder. For instance, Feng et al. (2015b) employed plaster and water as powder and binder, respectively. Withell et al. used a water-based liquid to bind clay particles while Henke and Treml (2012) tried binding wood chips (particles) with a mixture of water, cellulose, and cement (binder). Gibbons et al. (2010) used rapid hardening Portland cement with polyvinyl alcohol binder to print cement-based structures. Additional procedures after the printing process (post-processing step) are often applied to the printed part as listed in **Table 1**.

Selective Laser Sintering (SLS)

Selective Laser Sintering (SLS) is the process of sintering powders layer-by-layer (Kruth et al., 2005). The selected areas on the powder bed are exposed to the thermal energy of a laser beam. This technology was introduced in 1986 by Carl Deckard and Joe Beaman at the University of Texas according to Lipson



and Kurman (2013). Cañete Vela (2014) claimed that laser sintering can be used to make metallic and polymeric objects. The technique is similar to the one used in Stereolithography (SLA), in which a photo-solidification process is initiated by light to create a chain of interconnected molecules.

In the SLS, a jet of CO₂ is used as a laser light which strikes the light on the powders. The powders could be different material powders such as alloys, ceramics, cermet, nylon, glass composite, metal, steel, and carbonate (Jeng et al., 2000). **Figure 3** schematically shows how the laser is employed to

TABLE 1 | Types of powder, binder, and post-processing for the Inkjet Printing.

Powder type	Binder type	Post- processing	References
Rapid hardening Portland cement	Polyvinyl alcohol (Zb*)	Curing in water (room temperature) Curing in hot water (80°C)	Gibbons et al., 2010
TiNiHf shape memory alloy (SMA) powder	An acrylic-based aqueous binder	Cured for 1 h in the oven at 170°C	Lu and Reynolds, 2008; Utela et al., 2008; Lu et al., 2009; Wu et al., 2016
Amorphous calcium polyphosphate (CPP) powder	Liquid binder (Zb58)	A heat-uprate of 10°C/min from room temperature to 400°C	Vlasea et al., 2015a,b
Plaster-based powder (ZP**150)	Water-based binder solution of 2-Pyrrolidone (Zb63)	Dried in a building box for 1.5 h.	Farzadi et al., 2014, 2015
Calcium sulfate hemihydrate powder (ZP 102)	Water-based binder (Zb 7)	Different heat treatment protocols (150,200,250, 500, 861°C)	Zhou et al., 2013
Plaster-based ZP102 powder	Water-based Zb56 binder	Submerging in a liquid epoxy resin to provide strength and specific properties.	Vaezi and Chua, 2011
Tricalcium phosphate powder (TCP)	Phosphoric acid solution, 20% by volume	Post-hardening in a binder solution for 1,000 s.	Castilho et al., 2013
Gypsum with 5% (hydroxypropyl)methylcellulose	A liquid binder (Zb)	Infiltrated with a self-setting polyurethane resin for additional reinforcement	Christ et al., 2015
Hydroxyapatite granules	A liquid binder	A suitable post-processing depends on process and used materials	Spath and Seitz, 2013
Plaster-based powder ZP150	Zb60 binder	Cured for 3 h in an oven at 60°C	Feng et al., 2015a,b
Hydroxypropyl and β -TCP	Water-based binder (Zb7)	Dried at ~70°C for an hour	Zhou et al., 2014
Composite material of plaster powder (Zp130)	Water-based binder (Zb58)	Submerging in a liquid resin (ultralow viscosity cyanoacrylate, Z-Bond 101)	Castilho et al., 2011
Composite material of plaster powder (Zp150)	Water-based binder (Zb60)	Super glue infiltration (Z90)	Gharaie et al., 2013
Recycled glass powder in the 40–200 mm range	An appropriate binder system for glass 3DP	Paraffin wax or fired	Marchelli et al., 2011
A calcium phosphate powder with an average particle size of 55	An aqueous solvent (Zb60)	The firing step was conducted	Castilho et al., 2015
Spruce chips	Synthetic resin	Activator	Henke and Tremel, 2012

Zb*, humectant and water; ZP**, Zprinter powder (plaster, vinyl polymer, and carbohydrate).

melt the powder or slurry. The molten materials become a liquid formation and solidify completely when the temperature is reduced (Kolossoff et al., 2004). Computational modeling has been used in some studies to better understand the SLS process (Kumar, 2003). Peter and Jean-Pierre (2006) examined the residual stresses in selective laser sintering (SLS) and selective laser melting (SLM), aiming to a better understanding of the sintering phenomenon. The neat powder properties of various SLS powders were found to affect the fabrication process and ultimately lead to improving the mechanical properties of the resultant components (Dalgarno and Stewart, 2001). Similar to inkjet printed parts, SLS parts usually need a post-processing step which could influence the structural performance of the finished part. Therefore, post-processing and knowledge of the sintering phenomena must be integrated into the design and planning process to obtain a 3D printed part with optimum quality (Ian and Dongping, 1997).

An investigation by Dalgarno and Stewart (2001) reported the outcomes of a design study into production tools used in an industrial SLS process. The abovementioned both studies evaluate the improved productivity arising from the use of conformal cooling channels and also examines tool wear.

Extrusion Printing (Extrusion Based Process)

The extrusion printing technique fabricates three-dimensional objects from a computer-generated model as in a typical rapid prototype process. Detailed models may be derived from computed tomography scans, magnetic resonance imaging scans or model data created from 3D object digitizing systems and employed in this technique. In the Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM) technique, a thermoplastic filament material is extruded and deposited as a semi-molten polymer onto a platform in a layer-by-layer cycle. **Figure 4** shows how each layer is created; the platform base is lowered and the next layer is stacked atop another as prescribed by the computer model (Zein et al., 2002). The 3D plotting/printing of concrete through extrusion was based on the FDM process. The initial idea of the extrusion printing for construction elements was offered in the late 1990s by Pegna (1997). Later, this technique was utilized at the University of Southern California (USC) with some adjustments and modifications. The process was called contour crafting by Khoshnevis and Dutton (1998) and Hwang and Khoshnevis (2004). Delgado Camacho et al. (2018) claimed that employing novel 3DP techniques (mainly extrusion) in the construction

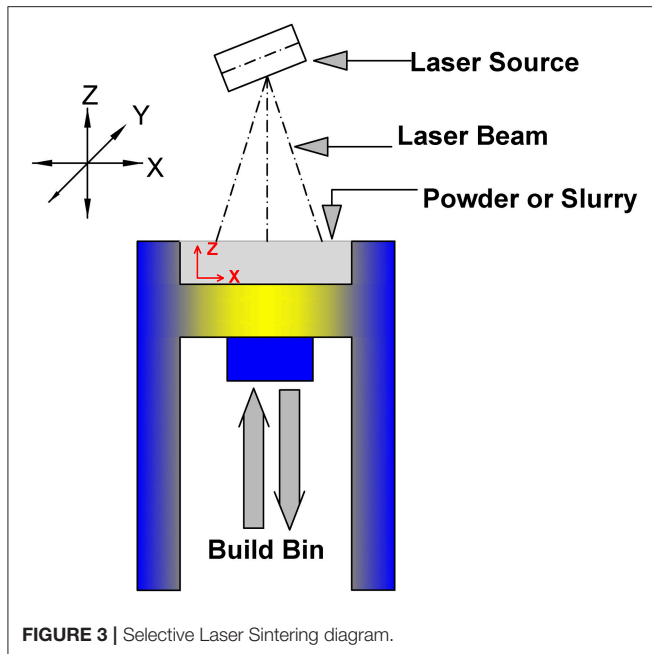


FIGURE 3 | Selective Laser Sintering diagram.

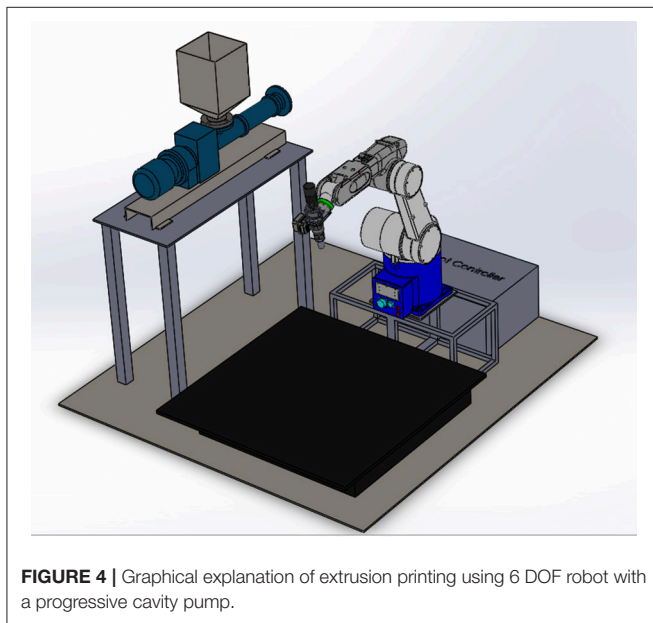


FIGURE 4 | Graphical explanation of extrusion printing using 6 DOF robot with a progressive cavity pump.

industry could reduce the labor costs, decrease material waste, and make complex geometries, which are difficult to attain using conventional construction techniques. Moreover, Lloret et al. (2015) aimed to link all the digital design, additive manufacturing, and material properties to build a complex shape from concrete structures.

Lim et al. (2012) presented the application of large-scale printed concrete via additive manufacturing processes which are called Concrete Printing. The extruded mortar slurry and several new criteria have been discussed, such as mix design of mortar and delivery system that has been developed

for the printed process. **Table 2** explains the three main techniques of the additive manufacturing for the construction applications.

The properties of different concrete mix designs and the various ingredients have been reviewed with the appropriate rheology in wet concrete as well as the viscosity ratio for the dimensional stability (Zijl et al., 2016).

Ashraf et al. (2018) focused on the metallic 3D printed structures and studied the micro-lattice printing structures from stainless steel and titanium.

Those paths and steps are vital to building an object when the additive manufacturing process involves a controllable machine such as a robot as shown in **Figure 4**.

CONCRETE MIX DESIGN

The concrete mix design plays a major role in both the 3D printing process of cementitious concrete and the structural performance of the printed concrete elements. When 3D printing materials, the fresh concrete or mortar are built one layer atop another while, the lower layers hold the layers above them. Although rapid prototype technologies and 3D printing techniques have been reviewed in the literature quite extensively, only a few studies investigated the role of concrete mix designs in the 3D printing of cementitious materials. Some recent studies focused on different proportions of chemical admixtures and water/cement ratios, while earlier ones Jeon et al. (2013) attempted to use less coarse aggregate. It is extremely difficult to pass coarse aggregates through the pump and small nozzle. Furthermore, layers with coarse aggregates could not hold the original shape of the printed layers.

Le et al. (2012a) prepared the concrete mixes for the print 3D fiber-reinforced concrete with the fine aggregates. The aim of the experimental studies was to investigate the extrudability and buildability for the concrete mixes. The diameter for the nozzle delivery systems is 9 mm to give a high printed resolution. **Table 3** summarized the mix proportion of the concrete. In their study, they addressed the shear strength for the workability of concrete and the compressive strength for the printed specimens. The optimum compressive strength that has been achieved when curing for 28 days was 110 MPa.

Malaeb et al. (2015) have tried different mix proportions of concrete as shown in **Table 3** to print straight lines. In their study, they chose mix proportion number 3 in **Table 3**, which has water to cement (w/c) ratio of ~ 0.4 . The lower w/c ratio which increases the strength of the concrete and suitable water ratio in the concrete assistance to maintain the greatest buildability of the printed concrete. The approximate compressive strength of such mix designs is 42 MPa.

Tay et al. (2016) conducted the 3DP concrete mixture design as described in **Table 3**. They found that this mixture is an excellent concrete mix design for 3DP. In this study, the low-cost mix design has been produced with 1.05% of water-weight superplasticizer added to the mix. The extrudability and buildability of the printer have been changed according to the mix design variations.

TABLE 2 | Comparison of additive manufacturing technologies in the construction field.

AM type description	Min feature size/surface quality	Materials	Comments	References
Inkjet (Binder) Printing Material in powder form bonded by dropping fluid into layers to form a part	Layer Thickness: 100–150 μm Minimum thin wall width: $\sim 2\text{ mm}$	- Metals - Ceramics - Polymers - Cement - Gypsum	- Versatile, different materials may be printed - Low surface quality - Low density to high porosity. - Resolution depends on particle size, layer thickness and type of binder solution. - Post-processing to obtain higher strength or density.	Pegna, 1997; Le, 1998; Lee et al., 2007; Gibbons et al., 2010; Rael and San Fratello, 2011; Henke and Trembl, 2012; Brown, 2015; Perrot et al., 2015; Shakor et al., 2017b; Dikshit et al., 2018
Selective Laser Sintering (SLS) Material in powder form sintered in layers to build an object	Layer Thickness: 20–150 μm Minimum thin wall width: $\sim 500\ \mu\text{m}$	- Metals - Ceramics - Thermoplastic Polymers	- High-temperature process. - Resolution is dependent on particle size and machine. - Agglomeration and oxidation occur with smaller particles. - Open porous, low density and lower strength are common issues. - Needs post-processing.	Mukesh et al., 1995; Lipson and Kurman, 2013; Cañete Vela, 2014; Barnett and Gosselin, 2015; Lim et al., 2016; Ngo et al., 2018
Extrusion Based Process and FDM	Layer thickness (FDM): 125–300 μm Minimum thin wall width (FDM): 600–1,000 μm Extrusion: Layer thickness $\sim 30\text{ mm}$ Minimum thin wall width: variable according to nozzle diameter and rheology of materials	- Thermoplastic Polymers - Metals (Bi–Sn, SnPb) composites - Multi-material composites - Cementitious materials	- Lower resolution than the other printers. - Shrinkage and layer bonding problems. - Poor surface quality. - Faster process compared to other methods. - Post-processing may be essential depending on the geometry. - Low tensile strength (significant orthotropic properties).	Zein et al., 2002; Shofner et al., 2003; Lewis et al., 2006; Mueller et al., 2014; Hager et al., 2016; Jianchao et al., 2017; Nerella et al., 2017

Gosselin et al. (2016) investigated the 3DP mix proportions of concrete (see **Table 3**). The materials consist of an ultra-high performance mortar paste, with an added polymer resin to improve the quality interfaces between layers and accelerating agents in order to attain adequate rheology. The prisms samples ($40 \times 40 \times 160\text{ mm}$) has been prepared for 90 days at ambient temperature in order to check the flexural strength test of the specimens. In this work, the 6 degrees-of-freedom robotic arm has been used instead of a moveable crane and also structural printing of the complex geometry has been presented.

Hambach and Volkmer (2017) investigated 3DP mix designs and demonstrated the optimum mix proportion for their study (**Table 3**). In their paper, they prepared and printed samples using the WASP Clay Extruder Kit machine with a nozzle diameter of 2 mm. The tests investigated the density, porosity and strength of the 3D printed samples with the short fibers (carbon, glass, and basalt fibers). The fibers have been used in different directions and the maximum obtained flexural strength was 30 MPa for the content of 1% volume of carbon fiber for the printed path. The optimum compressive strength for the 1% volume short carbon fibers parallel to the printed part reached 80 MPa.

In the same study, the authors prepared mix proportions for the hierarchical materials. All the different types of fiber reinforcement were used in a dry mix. The water reducer agent was mixed with the water by the particular mixer to make a

homogenous mix. Lastly, the fibers continued to be added to the mixture until the fibers dispersed completely. The maximum flexural strength in hierarchical materials for the 3DP is $17.5 \pm 0.5\text{ MPa}$. The optimum three-point bending strength is in the filled mortar diagonal sections of the specimens.

Kazemian et al. (2017) developed the different mix designs for concrete in 3DP. **Table 3** shows the different mixtures such as PPM (Portland cement only), SFPM (containing silica fume), FRPM (containing fiber), NCPM (containing nano-clay). Two different methods have been proposed for the shapability “layer settlement” and “cylinder stability.” The experimental results showed that the nano-clay and the silica fume enhanced the shapability of the fresh mixture, whereas little improvement was noticed in the printed part by the addition of polypropylene fiber.

According to the study of Rushing et al. (2017), the mix design for the extrusion printing has been prepared as shown in **Table 3**. It has been noted that the mixture B3 has the best mix extrusion. An examination of short fiber in the concrete revealed that the short fiber did not decrease the flow and in most cases, the fiber enhanced the shape stability of the fresh concrete.

According to the study performed by Shakor et al. (2017a), the mixture proportion of the concrete could be prepared based on the squeeze flow tests, compressive strength, slump test, and Vicat test. **Table 3** shows the pivotal trials for the concrete mixture. In the previous study, it was conducted the various cementitious mixes which are the mortar mixes with various ratio of water and

TABLE 3 | Mix design proportions for 3DP concrete and mortar in the literature studies.

Materials compositions (kg/m³) for 3DP by Le et al. (2012a)									
Mix design	Sand	Cement	Fly ash	Silica fume	Water	w/c ratio			
1	1,612	376	107	54	150	0.398			
2	1,485	446	127	64	178	0.399			
3	1,362	513	147	73	205	0.399			
4	1,241	579	165	83	232	0.400			
5	1,123	643	184	92	257	0.399			
Mix proportion of the concrete used by Malaeb et al. (2015)									
Mix Number	Cement (g)	Sand (g)	Fine Aggregate (gr)	w/c ratio	Superplasticizer (ml)	Flowability rate(cm/sec)	Retarder (ml)	Accelerator (ml)	
1 (control)	125	80	160	0.48	0	-	1	0.5	
2	125	80	160	0.42	0.5	1.1	1	0.5	
3	125	80	160	0.39	1	1.13	1	0.5	
4	125	80	160	0.38	1.1	1.2	1	0.5	
5	125	80	160	0.36	1.3	1.4	1	0.5	
Mix proportion (kg/m³) of the mix trials by Tay et al. (2016)									
Mix design	Sand	Cement	Fly Ash	Silica fume	Water	w/c			
6	810	253	192	61	152	0.6			
Mix proportion of the 3DP by Gosselin et al. (2016)									
Portland cement CEM I 52.5N	Crystalline Silica	Silica fume	Limestone filler	Water/(cement+sand)	Accelerating	Polymer-based resin			
(30–40%w)	(40–50%w)	(10%w)	(10%w)	0.1	NA	NA			
Mix proportion of the 3DP by Hambach and Volkmer (2017)									
Portland cement	Silica fume	Water	Water reducer (Glenium)	w/c					
61.5%	21%	15%	2.5%	0.3					
Mix proportion of the hierarchical materials of the 3DP Hambach and Volkmer (2017)									
Portland cement %	Sand %								
40	60								
Mix proportion of the different proportion materials used for 3DP by Kazemian et al. (2017)									
Mixture ID	Fine aggregate kg/m ³	Portland cement kg/m ³	Water kg/m ³	w/c	Silica fume kg/m ³	Fiber kg/m ³	Nano-clay %	HRWRA%	VMA%
PPM	1,379	600	259	0.43	0	0	0	0.05	0.11
SFFM	1,357	540	259	0.48	60	0	0	0.16	0
FRPM	1,379	600	259	0.43	0	1.18	0	0.06	0.10
NCPM	1,379	600	259	0.43	0	0	0.3	0.15	0

(Continued)

TABLE 3 | Continued

Non-conventional extrusion mixture proportions, kg/m ³ by Rushing et al. (2017)										
Mix No.	Water	Type I/II cement	Limestone sand	Limestone 3/8 in.	RMA	Additive type	Additive amount			
B0	215	430	1,290	430	5.4	None	-			
B1	215	430	1,290	430	5.4	0.5 in metal fiber	39			
B2	234	426	1,278	426	5.4	0.5 in nylon fiber	5.3			
B3	215	429	1,287	429	5.4	SP	4.3			
B4	215	344	1,290	430	5.4	Fly Ash	86			
B5	232	422	1,267	422	5.3	Bentonite	21			
B6	215	387	1,290	430	5.4	Silica fume	43			
Mix proportion of the different proportion of materials used for extrusion printing by 6 degrees-of-freedom robot by Shakor et al. (2017a)										
Mix trial no.	Portland cement (g)	Fine sand (g)	Coarse aggregate (size3mm) (g)	Accelerator (ml)	Retarder (ml)	Water (ml)	w/c	Superplasticizer (ml)		
T5	750	750	-	5	4	250	0.33	5		
T5	1,000	1,000	-	6.67	5.33	343	0.34	6.67		
T20	750	750	250	5	4	250	0.33	5		

chemical admixture. This could significantly alter the flowability of the concrete. In the study, 22 trials being conducted for the preparation of the concrete printing. Further, three of these trials were chosen for the squeeze flow, mechanical characteristics, and flowability tests. It was determined that the triple layers in trial five, which consisted of a mortar mix, has less displacement than the mix containing a coarse aggregate.

The tables above presented different mix proportions in 3DP printing and used different chemical admixtures to control the rheology of the materials. The different mix ratios resulted in different outcomes and different final shapes of the structural components. Moreover, many of the concrete mixes were cured using a specific procedure. However, each study has a different measurement for the setting time of the concrete slurry based on the w/c and admixture proportions.

In the tables above, the w/c ratio of mortar is between (0.3 and 0.4). In most studies, the w/c ratio used was 0.4. The w/c ratio of the concrete mix in the experimental study has a major effect on the mix flowability and shapability of the printed concrete parts.

The set accelerator ratio has a similar ratio in most of the studies as does the superplasticizer. The concrete mixing time is a vital part of the printing process but was differences in each of the research studies, depending on the mix proportions and water to cement ratio. In the study of Kazemian et al. (2017), mixing process took 8 min, while in Le et al. (2012b) 15 min was used to mix the concrete for the printed specimens. In the previous work which has been performed by Shakor et al. (2017a) the average time of mixing is 5–8 min.

The mix design of concrete has demonstrated the limitations of various mixes. Most of the mixes did not include the coarse aggregate due to the large particle sizes and poor shapability outcomes. Thus, researchers generally choose mortar or fine particles to make it easily pumpable. However, the coarse aggregate could not be applicable to use for all types of pumps. Further, the printed concrete with coarse particles did not look decent feature after printed concrete.

BENCHMARK EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Inkjet Printing

Formulation of the Powder for Inkjet 3DP

In the inkjet 3DP technic, the crucial factor before starting a print is adaptability and compatibility of the powder with the type of the printer. The printing application will be easy whenever the particle size, flowability, and wettability of the powder match with the recommended powder of the printer manufacturer. Accordingly, the particle size analysis of the recommended material is important to find the closest range of the particles that are expected to result a successful print.

In the previous studies by the author Shakor et al. (2017b) and Shakor et al. (2018) distribution size of the powder that has been used in an inkjet 3D printer (Z-printer150, Z-Corporation, USA) has been analyzed and identified. The data has been acquired from particle size laser analyser (Cilas 1190), **Figure 5A**. Recommended powder (ZP 151) by the manufacturer, contains major materials of plaster, carbohydrate, and vinyl polymer. Descriptive values of the mean particle size for 10, 50, and 90% of

the materials are D10, D50, and D90, respectively. The D values that were obtained were equal to 1.48, 23.07, and 70.12 μm , respectively. The specific surface area for the ZP 151 powder was recorded as 0.999 m^2/g by (BELSORP-max) machine.

Figure 5A shows the particle size distribution details of ZP 151 and cement mortar, which has been used in the inkjet printing process. In **Figure 5A** the particle size of the cement mortar is shown inclined to the right side of the graph, which means the particle size is slightly larger than the recommended powder (ZP 151), which is for D90 values it's about 80 μm for modified powder (cement mortar). From the graph, neither of both powders are perfectly matched, but they are similar enough that helps to ensure the regular flow of the powder through the printer's feeder bin and the ability to print structural specimens smoothly.

Specimen Preparation and Determination of the Water/Cement Ratio

This technique to print construction elements is inkjet printing (binder jetting) similar to the office printer in which, instead of printing on paper, the ink droplet dripping on the powder materials. The D-shape printer also has a similar process. In the binder jetting method, the powder is generally composed of a composite material. The liquid binder is mainly water which is used as an activator to bind the powder. The printing process is conducted using a layer-by-layer application process. **Figure 6** shows the cubic specimens under a uniaxial compression load, **Figure 6b** shows the core and shell of the specimens after the test. The saturation level is defined as the amount of liquid binder on the powder printed bed which is dropped out from the printhead (Miyajima et al., 2016).

$$\text{Saturation level} = \frac{V_{\text{binder}}}{V_{\text{env.p powder}}}$$

Where V_{binder} is the volume of the binder and $V_{\text{env.p powder}}$ is the volume of the powder after it has been rolled on the build chamber (bin; enveloped powder).

Since the density and mass are known then equation above can be used to determine the w/c ratio for both materials.

The different saturation levels in the liquid binder mean that the shell and core have a similar w/c ratio and similar saturation levels mean different w/c ratios inside the shell of the cube.

The saturation levels in inkjet printing are based on the interior and exterior of the 3D printed part. The exterior part is called the shell and the interior part is called the core (Withell et al., 2011).

The files for the 3D printing objects are the STL files which can be easily modeled and sent to the printer to print the segments (Cox et al., 2015; Hager et al., 2016).

The printed part under the uniaxial compression load could be broke in various directions according to the direction of printing. **Figure 6b**, in the same saturation specimens such as (S100 C100), a shell part under a uniaxial compression load detached their parts from the core part of the specimens (Shakor et al., 2017b). Further, investigations are required to determine the reasons behind the observed results, **Figure 6**.

Resolution and Surface Roughness of the Powder-Bed

After preparing the materials and delivering the powders from the feeder, another variable that should be investigated is the surface roughness of the powder and roughness of the specimens. This variable is mainly related to the bed-powder preparations. One of the methods that can be used to assess the roughness of the powder is a visual inspection of the powder-bed in the build bin of the printer. The visual inspection of different types of gypsum has been performed in the studies by Zhou et al. (2014), which compared coarse and fine powder and also investigated the density of both powders. The distribution of the powder particles, uniformity of powder, hygroscopic properties in the powder has a major contribution to the final printed product. Each of the powder has different properties for electric conductivity and microstructural strength development in the materials.

The modified materials (cement mortar) is more capable of absorbing water and exhibiting hydration reactions. This is due to the main ingredient of powder being calcium aluminate cement, which undergoes an amorphous phase that results in the growth of an interlocked crystal of dense microstructure. Therefore, the high early strength in rapid-setting of the calcium aluminate cement emerged. On the other hand, development of too many crystals causes a porous microstructure and will lead to a reduction in strength and durability (Sugama and Carciello, 1991).

In general, the hygroscopic properties and agglomeration in cement powder cause a poor powder-bed packing in the build chamber of the printer. Thus, the powder needs to be properly mixed and fluidized before printing any objects.

In inkjet printing, there is a clear difference between cement powder and the recommended gypsum powder on the build chamber of the printer. However, Shakor et al. (2018) observed a significant number of porous, voids and roughness on the cement mortar powder. Consequently, this would produce a weak printed sample and lead to a reduction in the mechanical strength of the printed specimens. For that reason, it is highly recommended to mix the materials well before commencing the print process. In addition, use the fresh cementitious powder and control the temperature and humidity in the vitro. Moreover, there are other methods to reduce the moisture contents of the materials and increase the strength, e.g., using glass fiber, which has been used in the other studies to increase the flexibility and strength of the printed structural members (Shakor et al., 2011) and (Shakor and Pimplikar, 2011).

Selective Laser Sintering

The purpose of this study is to explore the capabilities of additive manufacturing and utilize 3D printing to produce scaffolds or structural elements which are currently beneficial to the construction industry.

The SLS test was undertaken for the cementitious paste. This test has been arranged to determine the reaction of materials under the heat of the laser beam and infusion between the particles.

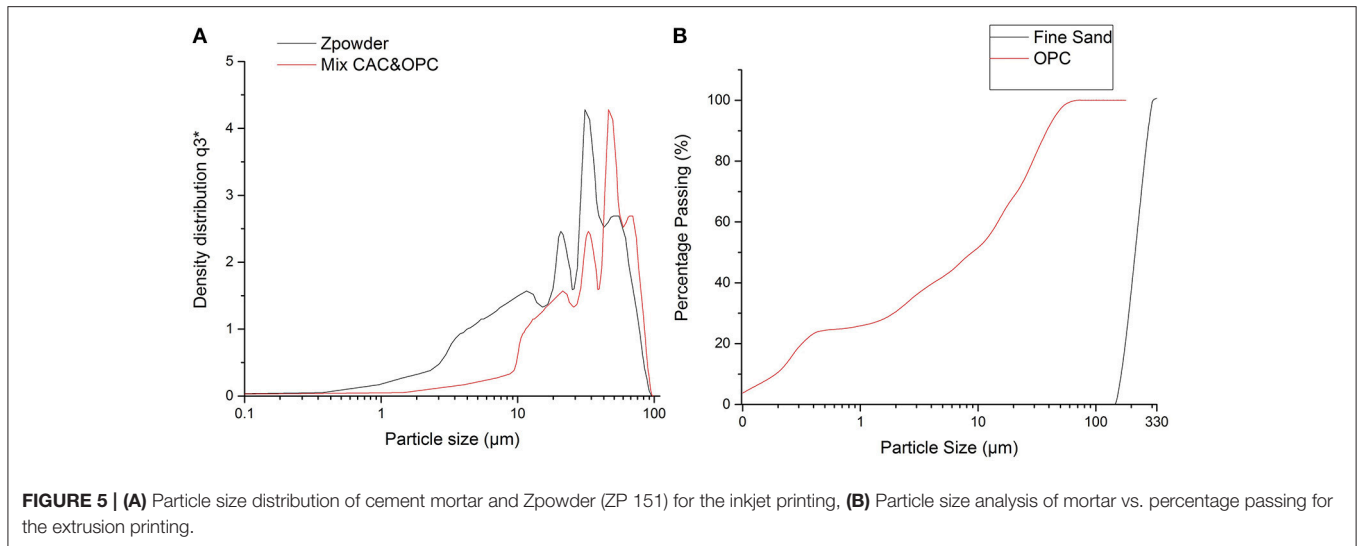


FIGURE 5 | (A) Particle size distribution of cement mortar and Zpowder (ZP 151) for the inkjet printing, **(B)** Particle size analysis of mortar vs. percentage passing for the extrusion printing.

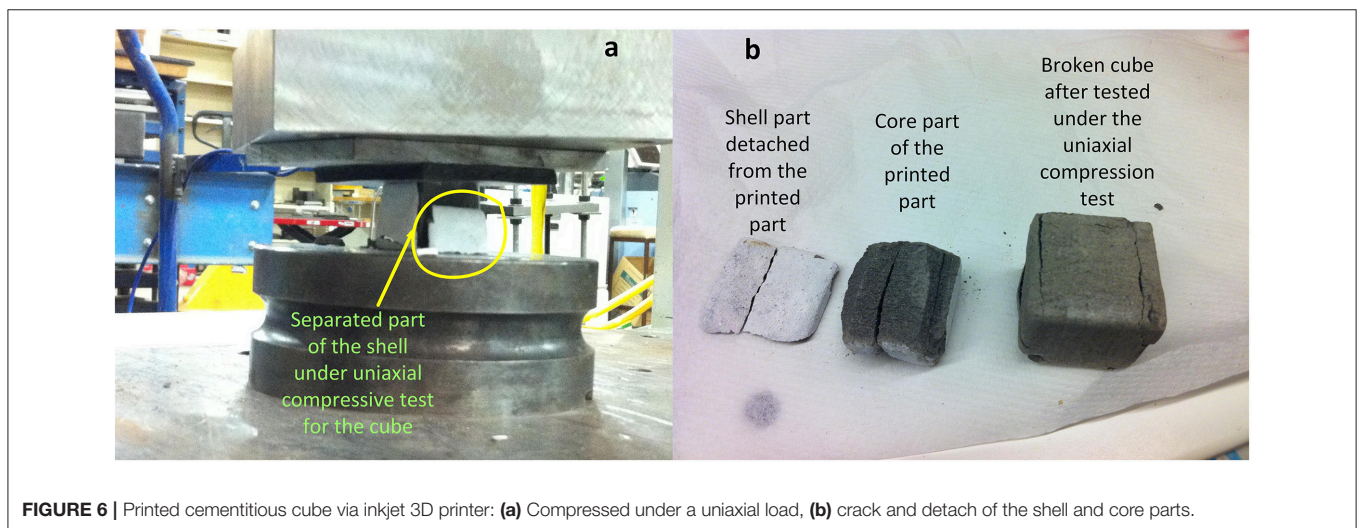


FIGURE 6 | Printed cementitious cube via inkjet 3D printer: **(a)** Compressed under a uniaxial load, **(b)** crack and detach of the shell and core parts.

The limited quantities of cement and water were prepared with 630 g of cement and 282 mm of water, respectively, and w/c ratio of 0.45. The thickness of the paste on the tray was 6 mm. In this trial test, the paste has been prepared on the flat tray such that the light of the beam could easily pass over the paste on the tray. The laser was applied to the cementitious paste for the purposes of hardening and drying the slurry of concrete, as shown in **Figure 7** and **Table 4**. It is noticeable that laser sintering did not significantly affect the cement paste and react with the slurry. The laser was also tested at different powers and at various locations on the cement paste, resulting in a slightly dried stain on the surface of the cement paste. These trials were executed using the Voxeljet VX1000 machine. As shown in **Figure 7**, the first line on the tray is cut by the laser light with a spot size of 1 mm, then the spot size has been increased to 24 mm, which had no noticeable drying effect on the paste, due to the large size of the spot-light. Thus, in the fourth line, the spot-light has been decreased to half (i.e., 12 mm).

This dramatically changed the color of the cementitious paste to yellowish, which means burnt. The rest of the lines became dried and dehydrated with the various ratios of spot sizes. For example, line nine became moderately dry compared with the other lines.

Table 4, it demonstrated the ratio of feed mm/min, the spot size (mm), power (watts), and temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$). It is clear that the speed and temperature are a crucial factor in the SLS process and they both influence the resulting cementitious paste.

Extrusion Printing

Mix Design for Cementitious Materials

As a pilot study, Shakor et al. (2017a) used different concrete mixes and various nozzle sizes with an industrial robot to print cement mortar. The robot was also programmed to print complex components as shown in **Figure 8**. Currently, extrusion printing is one of the most common methods in construction applications. Extrusion printing [e.g., concrete printing (Le et al., 2012a),



FIGURE 8 | (a) Printed mortar via extrusion printing, (b) Printed mortar by robot extrusion dried in the ambient temperature for 1 day.

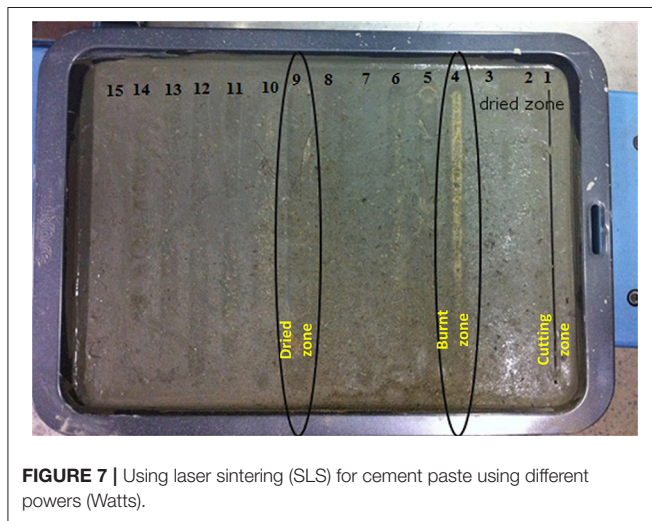


FIGURE 7 | Using laser sintering (SLS) for cement paste using different powers (Watts).

TABLE 4 | Demonstrate the speed, spot size, power, and temperature for each line in Figure 7.

No.	Speed(Feed) mm/min	Spot Size (mm)	Power(Watts)	Temperature (°C)
1	300	1	207	30
2	300	24	207	60
3	300	24	500	85
4	300	12	700	95
5	300	12	1,000	165
6	500	12	800	90
7	500	12	1,000	40
8	300	12	1,200	45
9	300	12	1,500	180
10	500	12	1,300	88
11	500	9	1,300	55
12	300	9	1,300	45
13	300	9	1,500	45
14	300	9	1,700	50
15	300	12	1,700	55

contour crafting (Khoshnevis et al., 2001)] have been established in the construction field already.

The methodology in Gosselin et al. (2016) has been upgraded from a 3DOF design 2.5D printing (Le et al., 2012b) to a 6DOF (3D printing) using an industrial robot. The 2.5D printing is the application process by the 3 axes of the printer, which has limited ability to maneuver the print head. However, the 3D printing is known as a complete process of application by the six degrees of freedom robot which can be smoothly moved with a minimum of boundary limitations.

Figure 8 shows how after the printed lines become dry, shrinkage cracks occurred at the locations where the pump became clogged. This can occur when the delivery pipe does not have enough supply materials coming out of the nozzle. However, the shrinkage cracks can be solved by adding fibers such as glass fiber or polypropylene fibers (Shakor and Pimplikar, 2011) and slightly increasing the w/c ratio (Rashidi et al., 2018) or by adding a wire (308LSo stainless steel) to increase the tensile strength of the printed objects (Laghi et al., 2018).

Another limitation that is faced when printing the concrete was the oscillations experienced by joints 4 and 6 of the industrial robot when the robot approaches singular configurations. This problem was initially exacerbated since these joints were experiencing the majority of the motions and changes in velocity. However, this oscillation could be solved by applying the Damped Least Squares (DLS) method for robot singularity avoidance as explained in previous work (Shakor et al., 2017a).

Furthermore, the sieve analysis and particle size distribution of the mortar has a major impact on the flow of the materials and the slump of the mortar. **Figure 5B** shows the passing percentage of the particles from the sieve for fine sand and ordinary Portland cement vs. the logarithmic particle size for the extrusion printing. It is obvious that the particle size of dry powders is not more than 300 μm . However, the particle size can be increased to larger

particles, i.e., 1.0 mm, as coarse sand to improve the strength of the mortar and reduce the shrinkage crack in the printed objects.

Extruder Adaptation and Delivery System

Extruder adaptation and delivery systems have the most significant influence on whether or not extrusion printing will produce a satisfactory printed object. A satisfactory outcome of the printed objects generally means a good mechanical property of the materials and good shapability of the printed parts. **Figure 9** shows the developed model for the extruded part that has been designed to mount to the end-effector of the 6-DOF robot in this study.

The joints of the robots that have been predominantly used during the printing process are joint 4 and 6. These two joints are used frequently to rotate and move the print nozzle through the desired path in order to print the members. For that reason, mostly oscillation appeared in those two joints.

Shape and size of the nozzle are counted as another effective factor to the mechanical strength and shapability of the printed objects. Therefore, these two factors should be taken into account in the design of the nozzle.

Besides, the delivery system is another affecting parameter that needs to be considered. The delivery system has a major impact on the printing outcomes such as shapability and slump of the concrete or mortar. Pumps are the most common delivery system used in the printing applications. Pumps have different types and a different process to deliver the material from the source to the end-effector of the printer. **Figure 4** displays the graphical illustration of the printing system via using 6-DOF and a progressive cavity pump in the current study (Shakor et al., 2017a). In 3DP by concrete, various pumps have been used such as a progressive cavity pump (Shakor et al., 2017a), peristaltic pump (Gosselin et al., 2016), pneumatic pump (Bos et al., 2018), and piston pump (Malaeb et al., 2015). Each of the pumps had limitations such as pressure, flow rate and heat transmission to the slurry. Thus, none of the pumps is perfect with 100% efficiency. Losing energy and transforming heat into the slurry makes the pump warmer and concrete warm as well. However, some of the pumps have less cavity and air voids than the others such as pneumatic, or centrifugal, and peristaltic pumps. The aforementioned types of pumps cause less air entraining due to the working principle of the turbine and easy-place dampeners in such pumps. The design of progressive cavity pumps makes cavities and voids which would lead to air being discharged at the end of the rotor with materials. Moreover, when the operating time increases in the pump the flow rate of the pumps decreases dramatically in contrast to the flow rate in the rotary lobe which stays steady and constant (Boring, 2016).

DISCUSSION

Inkjet printing is the second best-known printing process in the construction field and consists of a powder and a binder. The powders could be any usable materials, which can easily react with the binder.

Chua and Leong (2014) and Low et al. (2017) referred to large printers such as Voxeljet and ExOne, which can print large

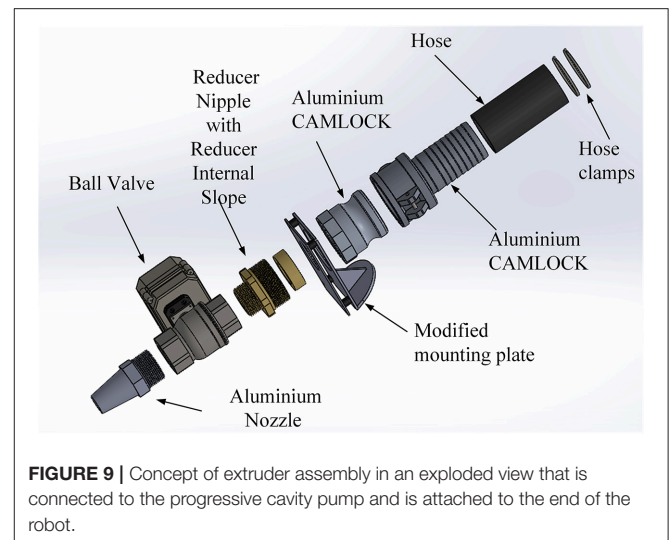


FIGURE 9 | Concept of extruder assembly in an exploded view that is connected to the progressive cavity pump and is attached to the end of the robot.

parts up to (4 2 1 m). Voxeljet is a German company which specializes in 3D printing system services. Additionally, ExOne is an American company that has similar services to Voxeljet, the only differences being some technical specifications. For instance, the ExOne has two build chambers and can print at the same time but Voxeljet has only one chamber. The build chamber sizes of Voxeljet are larger than ExOne and reaches (4 2 1 m), but the maximum dimensions of ExOne reach (2.2 1.2 0.6) 2 m.

Nowadays, the main competition between these printers relates to resolution and speed, which have a significant role in the appearance and the mechanical behavior of the manufactured parts. Chuang (2017) claimed that when the cartridge mounting angle changed from 1.1 to 90°, the resolution of inkjet printing changed from 5080 to 100 dpi. The outcome increases in drop spacing from 5 to 254 μm. The printed dots have an undesirably large overlap when the drop spacing is too close (short), causing a large spread of the ink because of an efflux of the ink. On the other hand, a non-uniform width line or a separated dot occurs when the drop spacing is too great to overlap each dot.

One of the limitations of the inkjet printing is the high porosity which makes the sample more fragile and permeable (i.e., will easily pass water through it). Therefore, extra post-processing is required, such as curing in heat or with pressurized water steam (Dikshit et al., 2018).

On the other hand, the high porosity makes the 3D printed part very light and easy to handle which could be very beneficial for print the structural components. It reduces the weight in the building and could be very effective for the seismic zone region.

In Zhou et al. (2014) the study proposed the density of the powder over the build chamber, which is called the in-process bed density. This density is usually lower than the true density and higher than the bulk density in magnitude. However, the enhancement could be implied by the type of packing the bed powder on the chamber by changing the mechanical force applied on the powder bed. This can increase the required force of

TABLE 5 | Explanation of settings of printing and printing methods.

Printing settings	Inkjet printing (binder jetting)	Selective laser sintering (SLS)	Extrusion printing (extrusion based process)
Speed	The print head is mounted to the Fast Axis Assembly (FAA). It can print 2–4 layers per minute. This process takes longer than extrusion printing. The speed of the print head axis is identified as a speed of binder (drop of water) which impacts the layered powders.	Speed and resolution of SLS at industry averages have a tolerance of 0.1 mm. Due to the relatively slow fabrication speed, this method is suitable only for low volume production runs for small, precise parts. This process takes longer than the other two processes.	Extruders and nozzles are held by the arm of the robot, allowing the extrusion of materials through the nozzle. The speed of extrusion depends on the materials' rheology and size of the nozzles. The velocity of the print varies between 39 and 60 mm/sec depending on the mixing types. The speed of the robot arm and the pump velocity are essential to discharge the constant slurry through the nozzle. If the robot arm speed more than slurry discharge, it will affect the air gap between the ingredients
Strength	Inkjet printing has lower strength and lower density than extrusion printing. Inkjet printing leaves a significant number of voids inside the printed parts.	This type of additive manufacturing could not work properly with concrete fabrication; it reaches the point where it burns all particles and evaporates the water inside the concrete.	In extrusion printing, the concrete slurry can gain higher strength than with the other types of printers. Concrete can, therefore, gain higher strength and density than in other techniques of additive manufacturing.
Accuracy	Inkjet printing has lower accuracy than sintering because the liquid distribution is not distributed evenly on to the powder. However, it has better accuracy than extrusion printing.	This technique has higher precision than the other processes.	This process has lower accuracy compared to the other types of printing.
Resolution	This printer has higher resolution than extrusion printing. Recently, different types of printer have been developed with different resolution, such as Zprinter resolutions Zprinter®150 (300 × 450) dpi and Zprinter®650 (600 × 540) dpi. The water/cement ratio controls the resolution of the printer and affects the resulting printed part. The number of drops per inch is the main factor on the powders to make the printed specimens higher resolutions or better shape.	The resolution of SLS is superior to the other two types of printer because the laser light can precisely print onto the exact spot on the powder. Furthermore, it does not leave any marks in surrounding areas and the adjacent side of the powder.	The resolution in extrusion printing is lower than it is for the other two printers. This system needs to have good finishing for the surface or the addition of a trowel to smooth the surface, such as contour crafting. The resolution of the printed parameters depends on the maximum particle sizes in the slurry, the height which slurry impacts on the platform and the water to cement ratio.

the roller on the bed layers which helps to reduce the voids within the powder particles. The outcome will be a higher density and less porosity, which will, in turn, eliminate or reduce extra post-processing.

Table 5 explains the printer settings of an inkjet printer, extrusion printer, and Selective Laser Sintering.

SLS has broad applications in other fields, but in the construction field, it has limited use. The main materials used in this process are powders. Most powders consumed in this application are a polymer (nylon). In the SLS process, the powders are fused or reacted together using a laser. If the powders do not react using a laser, it is not an effective method.

In some studies, the SLS technique has been proceeding for the dental work, the SLS and conventional process have been conducted. In the process, noticed that the casting the gap in the SLS production is greater than the conventional casting in all measured field (Kim et al., 2013). Thus, the methodology of the SLS is similar to the inkjet printing processing, which produces similar voids among particles.

Another limitation in the SLS is the low resolution due to the restrictions of the powder-base materials, which is face to agglomerate fine particle sizes (Cao et al., 2015).

Extrusion printing has the greatest potential for use in the construction field compared with other techniques of additive

manufacturing. There are particular limitations in extrusion printing that can be addressed based on the scale of the project and the printing materials (Wu et al., 2016).

Berman (2012) demonstrated that rapid prototyping is the most successful process for manufacturing small parts of the scaffold.

A question that has been frequently asked is whether 3DP could print at a larger scale for components in construction with durable mechanical properties. However, this question has been answered in recent decades with the development of additive manufacturing. For instance, the WinSun company in China has built precast components with dimensions of 150 10 6.6 m (Feng, 2014). However, it has not been proven to what degree these 3D printed elements can withstand severe environments and weather conditions.

Furthermore, the pumping speed and the velocity of the moving arm or nozzle (delivery mechanism) were found to have a crucial impact on the printed objects and resolution of the samples. Shakor et al. (2017a) conducted a comprehensive experimental study with various concrete mixes in regard to the speed of the robot, as shown in **Table 6**. The optimum velocity of the robot printhead is 39.36 mm/s, for the total length of the printed line (1,580) mm, however when using the auger motor speed in the adapted extruder is 15–19 volts.

TABLE 6 | Explains the time and velocity of the printed concrete outcomes.

Trial No.	Auger motor speed (volts)	Robot arm speed			Total length of printed line(mm)	Time (s)	Velocity mm/s
		Teach pendant%	Matlab (GUI) %	Over all%			
1	–	10	30	3	940	–	–
2	14–15	10	30	3	940	25.13	37.4
3	–	10	30	3	–	–	–
4	–	10	30	3	1,580	41.59	37.98
5	15–19	10	30	3	1,580	40.14	39.36
6	25	10	30	3	3,180	75.49	42.12
7	19	10	30	3	3,180	75.49	42.12
8	–	10	30	3	3,180	75.49	42.12
9	29	10	30	3	3,180	75.49	42.12
13	–	10	30	3	3,090	73.68	41.94
14	–	6	10	1.6	3,090	488.02	6.33
15	–	5	20	2.5	–	–	–
16	–	5	20	2.5	1,230	96.65	12.7
17	–	5	20	2.5	1,230	96.65	12.7

The study by El Cheikh et al. (2017) explored the speed of the horizontal plane shifting with a constant speed (V_p) equal to 50 d/s, where d/s is the diameter of the tube per second. The study by Hambach and Volkmer (2017) obtained a print speed of 30 mm/s by adjusting the layer height to 1.5 mm. Kazemian et al. (2017) used a linear printing speed of 60 mm/s. However, Shakor et al. (2017a) proved in their study that the most appropriate robot arm speed is suitable for printing concrete was 39.36 mm/s for their mix design.

The printing speed to extrude materials depends on several factors: rheology of the materials, the size of the nozzle, the shape of the nozzle, the distance between the nozzle, and printed platform and the distance between the delivery method and the extruder.

MODELING IN 3D PRINTING

The studies that have been analyzed show that different mixes should be designed based on the printing technique employed. The concrete could be printed by different AM processes such as 2.5DP or 3DP. For instance, the 2.5DP process has been implemented by Lim et al. (2012), by installing a moveable frame in three directions and the 3DP has been performed by Gosselin et al. (2016) which is prepared short column mortar via robot to fabricate the complex printed geometry.

Another important issue in 3D printing is the mechanical properties (stiffness and strength) of the printed material in relation to its microstructure. The presence of aggregates in the concrete could enhance its mechanical properties (Wu et al., 2001). Instead of large aggregates commonly used in concrete, smaller ones (2~4 mm) could be accommodated in the mix to enhance the mechanical properties of the cement (Lee et al., 2007). Additionally, short fibers (steel, carbon, or wood), and some waste materials such as fly ash and

slag could be introduced into the mix design (Hambach and Volkmer, 2017) to improve the mechanical properties of the printed material. Although new extrusion printers (like the one designed by the authors) offers flexibility in the 3D printing of complex structures with various concrete mixes, optimal mix designs for a specific application (or load condition) require developing versatile multi-scale models and different geometries. Recently, a computational multi-scale model has been developed at MIT for 3D printing of short fiber composites (Malek et al., 2017) so as to better understand the effect of various design parameters on the effective properties of the printed material. The authors are currently developing a similar multi-scale model for 3D printing of reinforced concrete with short fibers.

In addition to mechanical behavior, the printability, and flow behavior of the material would be affected by changing the mix design (Lim et al., 2012). Therefore, predicting the rheological properties of the cement paste with fillers needs to be integrated with the above multi-scale model. It is envisioned that the development of an integrated modeling framework for concrete, similar to those developed for advanced fiber reinforced composites (Johnston et al., 2001; Haghshenas et al., 2018), would offer the smart design and printing of various concrete mixes in the next decades.

CONCLUSION

Various additive manufacturing techniques that could be employed for plotting/printing in the construction industry have been reviewed in this paper. The choice of the printer, mix design, and the method of printing was discussed. Three benchmark examples were selected to compare the features and limitations of various techniques for 3D printing of concrete. Results showed that extrusion printing with industrial

robotic arms is a versatile technique that could be adapted for rapid and bespoke construction projects. Several parameters and printer features including the speed, strength, accuracy, and resolution of printing along with concrete mix were studied. It was found that by controlling various features of the extrusion printer such as speed, nozzle diameter, and the distance from the substrate, different concrete mixes could be printed; therefore, constructing a wide range of complex structures with different sizes is achievable in the future. However, further research is still required to improve (and predict) the mechanical properties and printability of the 3D printed structural elements. Notably, the rheology of the mix and the relations with the orthotropic properties of the concrete need further investigation. Future work will focus on the development of physically-based models at various scales (i.e., neat cement, filled cement, and finished concrete), which in turn would enable the printing parameters involved in the extrusion technique to be optimized.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

PS and SN contributed conception and idea of the review paper. PS organized all the database and interpreting the mix design of review papers. SM performed to interpret the modeling section. GP reviews the first draft of the manuscript and check all the mechatronic subjects related to his field. PS, SN, GP, and SM reviewed all the sections in the manuscript. All authors contributed to organizing the manuscript, read, revision, and approved the submitted version.

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Conflict of Interest Statement: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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